

What is claimed is:

1. A modular jack, comprising:
a jack body having top, bottom, front, and rear walls;
a plug receiving opening in the front wall; and
an LED assembly receiving pocket in the front wall, the pocket comprising an opening in the front wall and an opening in the bottom wall, wherein the openings in the front and bottom walls substantially correspond to the width and length of an LED assembly to be inserted in the pocket such that the LED assembly can be inserted from both the front wall and the bottom wall.
2. The modular jack of claim 1, wherein the LED assembly is retained within the pocket by an adhesive.
3. The modular jack of claim 1, wherein the pocket further comprises inner walls, wherein at least one of the inner walls includes a crush rib thereon for forming an interference fit between the pocket and the LED assembly.
4. The modular jack of claim 1, wherein the bottom walls further comprise lips for retaining the LED assembly within the pocket.
5. The modular jack of claim 1, further comprising a metallic shield surrounding the jack body, the shield comprising a front face and a tab portion, wherein the front face has apertures for exposing LEDs and tab portion that covers the opening in the bottom wall.

6. A modular jack, comprising:
a visual indicator for indicating a condition of an electrical signal; and
a body capable of receiving at least a portion of a connector plug, the body having a first outer surface located in a first plane, and a second outer surface located in a second plane substantially perpendicular to the first plane, the body defining a pocket for receiving at least a portion of the visual indicator, the pocket extending into the body from the first and the second outer surfaces so that the at least a portion of the visual indicator can be inserted into the pocket in a first direction substantially perpendicular to the first plane, and in a second direction substantially perpendicular to the second plane.

7. The modular jack of claim 6, wherein the pocket is defined at least in part by an outboard inner surface and an opposing inboard inner surface of the body, a top inner surface of the body, and a rear inner surface of the body.

8. The modular jack of claim 7, wherein the outboard and inboard inner surfaces are substantially perpendicular, and the upper and rear inner surfaces are substantially perpendicular to the outboard and inboard inner surfaces.

9. The modular jack of claim 7, wherein the at least a portion of the visual indicator is retained in the pocket by an adhesive bond between a surface of the visual indicator and at least one of the outboard, inboard, rear, and upper inner surfaces.

10. The modular jack of claim 7, wherein the visual indicator comprises an LED, and the outboard and inboard inner surfaces are spaced apart by a distance approximately equal to a width of the LED.

11. The modular jack of claim 10, wherein the visual indicator further comprises a terminal electrically coupled to and extending downward from the LED.

12. The modular jack of claim 10, wherein the outboard inboard, and upper inner surfaces each have a length approximately equal to a length of the LED, the outboard, inboard, and rear inner surfaces each have a height approximately equal to a height of the LED, and the rear inner surface has a width approximately equal to a width of the LED.

13. The modular jack of claim 7, wherein at least one of the outboard and inboard inner surfaces has a crush rib formed thereon for securely engaging the at least a portion of the visual indicator when the at least a portion of the visual indicator is inserted into the pocket.

14. The modular jack of claim 13, wherein the crush rib deforms when the at least a portion of the visual indicator is inserted into the pocket so that remnants of the crush rib urge the at least a portion of the visual indicator toward the other of the at least one of the first and second inner surfaces thereby providing an interference fit between the at least a portion of the visual indicator and the other of the at least one of the outboard and inboard inner surfaces the body.

15. The modular jack of claim 6, wherein the body has a lip formed thereon for retaining the at least a portion of the visual indicator in the pocket.

16. The modular jack of claim 15, wherein the visual indicator comprises an LED, the body defines two of the lips, the lips define an entrance to the pocket, and the first and the second lips are spaced apart by a distance less than a width of the LED.

17. The modular jack of claim 16, the pocket is defined at least in part by an outboard and an opposing inboard inner surface of the body, and the first and second lips are formed respectively on the outboard and inboard inner surfaces.

18. The modular jack of claim 16, wherein at least one of the first and the second lips resiliently deflects away from the other of the first and second lips in response to insertion of the LED into the pocket.

19. The modular jack of claim 6, further comprising a metallic shield positioned over the body so that the shield covers at least a portion of the pocket and retains the at least a portion of the visual indicator in the pocket.

20. The modular jack of claim 19, wherein the shield comprises a front wall that covers at least a portion of an first entrance to the pocket, and a tab portion that covers at least a portion of a second entrance to the pocket.

21. The modular jack of claim 20, wherein the first entrance is substantially perpendicular to the second entrance.

22. The modular jack of claim 20, wherein the tab portion is formed by bending a portion of the front wall after the shield is positioned over the body.

23. The modular jack of claim 20, wherein the front wall interferes with movement of the at least a portion of the visual indicator in the first direction, and the tab portion interferes with movement of the at least a portion of the visual indicator in the second direction.

24. The modular jack of claim 20, wherein the front wall has an aperture formed therein for providing visual access to the visual indicator.

25. The modular jack of claim 6, further comprising a second of the visual indicators, wherein the body has a second of the pockets formed therein for receiving at least a portion of the second of the visual indicators.

26. The modular jack of claim 6, wherein the body has a cavity formed therein for receiving the at least a portion of a connector plug, and the modular jack further comprises a lead wire having a first portion positioned in the cavity for establishing electrical contact with the mating plug, and a second portion extending from the body for establishing electrical contact with a substrate.

27. The modular jack of claim 26, wherein the body has a slot formed therein for receiving an end of the lead wire, and an internal passage adjoining the slot for routing the lead within the body.

28. The modular jack of claim 6, wherein the first outer surface is an outer surface of a front wall of the body, and the second outer surface is an outer surface of a bottom wall of the body.

29. A modular jack, comprising:
an LED assembly comprising an LED and a terminal electrically coupled to the LED; and
a body having a front and a bottom outer wall, the body having a first pocket formed therein for receiving a connector plug and defined at least in part by the front wall, the body also having a second pocket formed therein for receiving the LED, the second pocket being formed at least in part by the front and the bottom outer walls so that the LED can be inserted into the second pocket from the front and the bottom of the body.

30. The modular jack of claim 29, wherein the second pocket is defined at least in part by an outboard inner surface and an opposing inboard inner surface of the body, a top inner surface of the body, and a rear inner surface of the body.

31. The modular jack of claim 30, wherein the LED is retained in the second pocket by an adhesive bond between a surface of the LED and at least one of the outboard, inboard, upper, and rear inner surfaces.

32. The modular jack of claim 30, wherein at least one of the outboard and the inboard inner surfaces has a crush rib formed thereon for securely engaging a surface of the LED when the LED is inserted into the second pocket.

33. The modular jack of claim 29, wherein body has a lip formed thereon for retaining the LED in the second pocket.

34. The modular jack of claim 33, wherein the body defines two of the lips, the lips define an entrance to the second pocket, and the lips are spaced apart by a distance less than a width of the LED.

35. The modular jack of claim 29, further comprising a shield positioned over the body and having a portion that covers at least a portion of the second pocket so that the shield retains the LED in the second pocket.

36. A modular jack, comprising:
a visual indicator for indicating a condition of an electrical signal; and
a body for mating with a connector plug, the body having a pocket formed therein for receiving at least a portion of the visual indicator, the pocket being accessible to the at least a portion of the visual indicator from a first and a substantially perpendicular second direction; and
at least one of:

a crush rib formed on the body so that the crush rib securely engages the at least a portion of the visual indicator when the at least a portion of the visual indicator is inserted into the pocket;

adhesive for bonding the at least a portion of the visual indicator to the body;

a lip formed on the body and extending along a perimeter of the pocket so that the lip retains the at least a portion of the visual indicator in the pocket;
and

a shield positioned over the body and covering at least a portion of the pocket so that the shield retains the at least a portion of the visual indicator in the pocket.